

Message Text

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63

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 150235Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8937

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6636

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, AS, US

SUBJECT: US MILITARY USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES

REF: (A) STATE 226050, (B) STATE 207358

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL B WE MADE POINTS REQUESTED TO DEFENSE DIVISION FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WHICH CONFIRMED THAT DFA AND AUSTRALIAN DOD HAD RECEIVED EXACTLY SAME MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND THAT DFA AND ADOD WOULD STAFF MATTER OUT AND, BEFORE MAKING ANY APPROACH IN SINGAPORE, PLANNED TO DISCUSS QUESTION FURTHER WITH DEPARTMENT AND DOD THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IN MEANTIME NO REPEAT NO INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO BE SENT TO AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SINGAPORE.

2. DCM APPROACHED DFA AGAIN TODAY ON MATTER. HE WAS TOLD ADOD WAS STAFFING OUT WHOLE MATTER BUT THAT PEOPLE INVOLVED HAD BEEN SPENDING ALMOST ALL THEIR TIME PAST FEW WEEKS ON NUCLEAR SHIP VISITS, WHICH DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. DFA CONFIRMED THAT POSITION WAS SAME AS DESCRIBED IN PARA ONE ABOVE AND THAT IT WAS HOPED THAT INSTRUCTIONS COULD BE PREPARED FOR AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH DEPARTMENT AND DOD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DFA WANTS GET WHOLE QUESTION STRAIGHT PRIOR TO PRIME MINISTER LEE'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, WHICH WE NOW UNDERSTAND WILL BE IN EARLY OCTOBER.
HARGROVE

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NNN

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